

WEEKLY REPORT



04/03/21

POLITICS

BOLSONARO CHANGES SIX MINISTRIES TO ACCOMMODATE CENTRÃO AND TRY TO GET OFF THE ROPES

President Jair Bolsonaro carried out a cabinet reform that changes almost a quarter of his 22 ministries, including the strategic Defense portfolio in a government that wants to exhibit symbiosis with the Armed Forces. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RESIGNS UNDER PRESSURE FROM BOLSONARO'S POLITICAL BASE

Diplomat Ernesto Araújo decided to resign as chancellor on Monday, as Brazil becomes the world epicenter of the pandemic, with an average of over 2,500 deaths daily. The information began to circulate after Araújo communicated, through his chief of staff, diplomat Pedro Wolny, to Itamaraty secretaries and other subordinates that he would resign. [Read more.](#)

AFTER SURPRISING JOINT RESIGNATIONS, JAIR BOLSONARO APPOINTED NEW LEADERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES

The new Minister of Defense, Walter Braga Netto, presented in Brasilia General Paulo Sérgio Nogueira de Oliveira (Army), Admiral Almir Garnier (Navy) and Brigadier Carlos Almeida Baptista Jr (Air Force). [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO REPLACE ARMED FORCES CHIEFS AFTER BOLSONARO FIRES DEFENSE MINISTER

Since taking office in 2019, Bolsonaro has placed current and former military officials throughout all government levels, leading to concerns that its affiliations may tarnish the military's reputation with his administration. [Read more.](#)

JAIR BOLSONARO AND BRAZIL'S NEW MINISTERS' MAIN CHALLENGES IN FIVE POINTS

In all, six ministries had their heads changed in an attempt to manage the crisis in various sectors of the government. Still, the dance of the chairs will not be synonymous with calm for the president in command of the Executive. The changes, which affected the Government Secretariat, the Civil House, Foreign Affairs, Defense, Justice, and the Office of the Attorney General (AGU), come in the wake of friction and increased pressure from Congress on Bolsonaro. [Read more.](#)

ANALYSIS: IS BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO SEEKING POLICE SUPPORT BEFORE ELECTIONS WITH RESHUFFLE?

President Jair Bolsonaro rattled Brazilian politics and irked military commanders with a major cabinet reshuffle this week, but one powerful constituency is thrilled: the police have one of their own running the Justice Ministry. [Read more.](#)

IN BRAZIL, MILITARY RULE IS STILL VIEWED WITH FAVOR BY MANY

On Monday (29), the Minister of Defense, General Fernando Azevedo Silva, left the position he had held since the beginning of 2019. He was replaced by General Walter Braga Netto. The next day, the new holder of the portfolio released his first official statement: a text about March 31, the date that marks 57 years of the event that history calls a military coup. [Read more.](#)

SIX PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SIGN A MANIFESTO IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY IN BRAZIL

Six political leaders who may be candidates for the Presidency of the Republic in 2022 signed a joint manifesto on Wednesday, March 31st, defending democracy and criticizing authoritarian initiatives that could endanger the country's achievements such as freedom of expression, equal access to justice and other individual rights. The document was signed by governors of São Paulo, João Doria (PSDB), and Rio Grande do Sul, Eduardo Leite (PSDB), former governor Ciro Gomes (PDT), former Health Minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta (DEM), presenter Luciano Huck, and businessman João Amoêdo (Novo). [Read more.](#)

AMID RECORD COVID-19 DEATHS AND CONTAGION, BOLSONARO REJECTS RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT, ASKS PEOPLE TO RETURN TO WORK

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, criticized the measures that seek to restrict the movements of the population in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, claiming falsely that "hunger kills much more than the virus itself". [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL BUSINESSMEN URGE CENTRÃO VOTING BLOC GIVE ULTIMATUM TO BOLSONARO GOVERNMENT

A series of nine meetings between Congressional leaders and important businessmen, bankers, and financial market representatives, has resulted in a political movement for intervention in the directions of Jair Bolsonaro's government. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSMEN IN BRAZIL ARTICULATE PROJECT GRANTING BOLSONARO WAR POWERS

The leader of the PSL in the Chamber of Deputies, Bolsonarist deputy Major Vitor Hugo (PSL), and the leader of a 14-party bloc, deputy Hugo Mota (Republicans), asked for urgency to vote on a bill that provides for the use of the institute of "National Mobilization" in cases of pandemics and natural disasters, along the lines of what is currently provided for in the legislation in case of war. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO SPEND EXTRA US\$1 BILLION TO FIGHT PANDEMIC AS COUNTRY HITS DAILY DEATH RECORD

President Bolsonaro has been widely condemned for his handling of the pandemic, from playing down the disease's severity to criticizing early efforts to secure vaccines and opposing social distancing measures. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S FINANCIAL MARKET IS MORE CONCERNED WITH PANDEMIC AND FISCAL RISK THAN WITH THE CABINET RESHUFFLING

Even with the advances in vaccination, concern about how long the pandemic will last in the country weighs on the short term and is reflected in the dollar, the country's main risk indicator. [Read more.](#)

MOODY'S AND S&P: BASE SCENARIO FOR BRAZIL IS RESPECTING THE SPENDING CAP, BUT THERE ARE RISKS

Moody's and S&P's believe the spending cap will be respected, even after the approval of the 2021 Budget last week by the Chamber of Deputies. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT DEBT IN BRAZIL REACHES 90% OF GDP FOR THE FIRST TIME

The gross government debt in Brazil rose from R\$6.670 trillion in January to R\$6.744 trillion in February, according to data from the Central Bank (BC). In relation to the Gross Domestic

Product (GDP), the debt rose from 89.4% to 90%. It was the first time in the entire historical series of the Central Bank that the indicator reached 90% of the GDP. The current methodology started in 2008. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL IS EXPECTED TO SET A RECORD FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN 2021, SAYS CONSULTANCY

Brazil should set a record for public-private partnerships (PPP) in 2021. The projection is from Radar PPP consultancy based on the number of projects planned for this year, particularly social infrastructure. [Read more.](#)

THE PATHS THAT COULD LEAD TO CRIMINAL CHARGES OR THE IMPEACHMENT OF BOLSONARO

Legal experts interviewed assess that the President's conduct may constitute common crimes under the Criminal Code, but for there to be a criminal lawsuit before the STF (Supreme Court), a complaint filed by the Prosecutor General of the Republic (PGR) Augusto Aras, and the approval of the Chamber of Deputies are required. In the case of the pandemic, because there is collective responsibility, it is not possible to file a criminal complaint: this is only valid when there is a person directly affected. [Read more.](#)

U.S. WANTS AN END TO DEFORESTATION IN BRAZIL BY 2030 AND IMMEDIATE RESULTS

Speaking to journalists, a member of the U.S. State Department said that the White House expects strong and quick demonstrations that it can build a relationship of trust with President Bolsonaro's government on the environmental issue. In a letter sent to the Brazilian president in February, Biden had already said he hoped for some evidence of commitment before the global climate summit he is organizing for April, and to which Bolsonaro has been invited. [Read more.](#)

INDIGENOUS LOBBYING GROUP CALL FOR DIRECT LINE WITH BIDEN ADMINISTRATION IN AMAZON TALKS

The Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) sent a letter two weeks ago to U.S. President Joe Biden and his Special Climate Envoy, John Kerry, in which it requests a "direct channel" of communication with the U.S. government on issues related to the Brazilian Amazon. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

BRAZIL REGISTERS 2,922 NEW COVID-19 DEATHS

Brazil on Friday registered 2,922 new COVID-19 deaths, the health ministry said, as the Latin American nation grapples with the worst of the pandemic so far and the world's highest daily death tolls. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO AFFIRMS THAT HE WILL BE THE LAST BRAZILIAN TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro affirmed this Thursday, April 1, that if he decides to get the Covid-19 vaccine, he will be the "last Brazilian" to do so, because it is his duty to "set an example" and put himself last in line. [Read more.](#)

ONE-THIRD OF THE WORLD'S DAILY DEATHS: THREE KEY FIGURES TO UNDERSTAND THE PANDEMIC IN BRAZIL

Brazilian hospital records indicate that the number of people who died due to confirmed or suspected cases of the disease in the country may be higher than the official 321,000 and have already passed 443,000. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL RANKS 5TH AMONG ALL COUNTRIES IN NUMBER OF VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED DAILY

Two and a half months after the start of the immunization campaign against Covid-19 in Brazil, the country is placed 5th among countries with the highest absolute number of daily doses administered, according to Bloomberg data. There are about 711,211 daily shots. [Read more.](#)

VACCINATION PROGRESS: BRAZIL RANKS 15TH IN PROPORTION TO ITS POPULATION

By Saturday, March 27, 17.52 million doses had been applied in Brazil, which corresponds to 6.3% of the population. In absolute numbers (volume compared to other countries), the country is in 5th position. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTES ANOTHER 11 MI VACCINE DOSES AGAINST COVID-19

On Thursday (Mar. 1), more than 9.1 million vaccine doses against COVID-19 will start being distributed by Brazil's Ministry of Health to the 26 states plus the Federal District. Of those, 8.4 million are CoronaVac, from Butantan institute, and 728 thousand from AstraZeneca/Oxford, produced by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz). [Read more.](#)

U.S. TO HELP BRAZIL ACCESS VACCINES, SAYS AMBASSADOR

The U.S. Embassy said in a statement on Tuesday, March 30th, that the country will help Brazil in its efforts and maximize access to vaccines. Ambassador Todd Chapman met by videoconference with Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga to review the United States' cooperation with Brazil in fighting the new coronavirus pandemic. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S HEALTH REGULATOR CERTIFIES FACTORIES INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF J&J AND SPUTNIK V VACCINES

The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) gave certificates of good practices to three factories involved in the production of the Covid-19 vaccine from Janssen, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, and a plant that will participate in the production in Brazil of the Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V, the regulatory agency advised in a statement. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S ANVISA REJECTS BID TO IMPORT BHARAT BIOTECH VACCINE

Brazilian health regulator Anvisa on Wednesday, March 31, rejected a request from the government to import doses of Covaxin, the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Indian laboratory Bharat Biotech, citing a lack of safety data and documentation. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL PRODUCES FIRST BATCH OF RUSSIAN SPUTNIK V VACCINE COMPONENTS

The Brazilian pharmaceutical company União Química concluded producing an experimental batch of Sputnik V vaccine components in its plant in Brasilia, according to information released by the Russian Embassy in Brazil. The whole batch will be sent to the Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology, which developed the immunizer for quality control. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL DETECTS NEW CORONAVIRUS VARIANT SIMILAR TO SOUTH AFRICAN

Speaking at a press conference the day after Brazil suffered a record 3,780 deaths in a day, Butantan President Dimas Covas said the patient with the variant had no history of travel to South Africa. [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN MAYORS CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL HELP TO COMBAT COVID IN VIDEO

Mayors from eight cities in Brazil, including six capitals, asked for international help in combating the Covid-19 pandemic in a video produced and released by the National Mayors Front on Monday (29). [Read more.](#)

CAMEX ABOLISHES TAX ON MASK RESIN

Used in the manufacture of face masks, polypropylene resin will be imported tax-free, the Brazilian Economy Ministry's Foreign Commerce Chamber decided. The tax break will encompass approximately 77 thousand tons of the products and will be effective for three months. The decision includes the resin on Mercosur's list of exceptions to the common external tariff. The measure was necessary, Camex reported, because the resin, which also has a number of industrial applications, is facing a shortage in the international market due to the increase in the demand for masks. [Read more.](#)



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